AN ADDRESS

—TO—

CANADIANS

DELIVERED IN THE

MUSIC HALL, PETERBOROUGH.

—BY—

JOHN WALKER.

SUBJECT:

"FENIANISM,"

IN CONNECTION WITH THE

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRINCE ALFRED,

AND THE

ASSASSINATION OF T. D'ARCY McGEE.

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AN ADDRESS TO CANADIANS.

The present, in our opinion, is the time when a simple statement of facts may be of much benefit to the loyal people of Canada in connection with the present movement going on in the United States, by the banding together of multitudes who are disaffected to Britain, and the drilling of the same for the purpose of overthrowing British rule in Canada, and thereby making Canada the arena for the building of ships and the equipment of the same for purposes of war, in order that Ireland may be wrested from Britain by force.

We are not here to explain the exact position of Fenianism in its numbers and strength. We are here to give what we believe to be a true and correct statement of the desire of the leaders and their dupes; and also, letting our opinion be known of the American mind on the matter. What we are to understand by the American mind is, the position Fenianism occupies in the minds of the Americans as opposed to Britain.

The truth is, the native born American does not like the Irishman as a man; but, while he dislikes the Irishman, he is so opposed to Englishmen (or, as he always terms him, John Bull) that if any means could be placed at his disposal or in his power whereby he could reduce England, or should I rather say blot England out of the map of the world, the great majority of Americans would support such a movement by all the greenbacks they could throw into the market. One old and wealthy farmer near Rochester, told me that the greatest desire he had was, that ere he departed this life he would see Canada united to the States, and then the combined powers of the world would be helpless in a war with the United States. Another farmer near Geneva, asked us our opinion of Fenianism, and when we gave our reply, viz: that Fenianism and Fenians might annoy but could not in-

jure Britain, he was of quite a different opinion, and so strongly did he express himself on the subject that he went the length of saying, in his opinion, England had only a year or two to live and he would support any movement that might be got up to overthrow her. The day the news arrived in Geneva that the Jaurez government had shot Maximillian, another American said it was the greatest act of the war, and when we replied that it was a foul murder, he merely answered that he wished he had the opportunity of doing the same to the Queen of Engla[illegible]

It is not to be supposed that because these few instances are quoted, they are proof of the general feeling of the American public; but let us go to the root of the matter and judge quietly and dispassionately for ourselves by reading the mind of the New York press, and then we will see the real state of American opinion. Take, for instance, the articles of the New York *Herald*, the articles of the New York *Times*, the articles of the New York *Tribune*, and the articles of the New York *World*; also, the speeches of Mr. Horace Greely on the subject of American citizenship, and I am bound to say any unprejudiced mind will be convinced of the fact that the Americans have a deadly hatred to Britain. Then look at the despatches of the Hon. Mr. Seward, the American Foreign Secretary, to the American Minister at London, and can any man say these despatches do not display a desire to compel Britain to submit to America, or as we simply regard it, to make them so distasteful to Britain that she will be compelled to withdraw her Ambassador from Washington. President Johnson in his message to Congress, stated he had done what he could to have a mixed convention of representatives from the great powers to declare what England owed America for the "Alabama" claims, that he had been unsuccessful in getting Britain to concede to his urgent requests and he wanted Congress to express itself fully on this matter; but the President omitted to tell Congress that when Britain had consented and was perfectly willing to the appointing of a convention, Mr. Seward added another clause to the conditions, and that clause *alone* was and is the reason for the matter standing as it does at present. The clause

is this, "that the convention decide whether Britain had any right to recognize the belligerent rights of the South. The government of England finding that America wanted to interfere in the foreign policy of England, at once and firmly refused to proceed in the matter. If, therefore, the desire of Americans is to humble Britain, we ask the question, what is the position of British subjects? and in reply say, stand up for Britain, and prove to Americans and American Fenians that whatever may be their opinion of the people inhabiting these British possessions, they are prepared to stand as a wall of fire around Britain and defy any advance of a Fenian army into Canada. Should, however, General O'Neil and his supporters succeed in raising an army of one hundred thousand men, we would ask how is he to get all the necessaries for his coming to Canada. He must have horses, artillery, ammunition, &c., &c., and where is he to find them.—Without money very little can be done, and unless he gets it from some Power he cannot raise it any way else. Will the American Government give it? Will any of the European Powers give it? We answer *nay*. The people to whom he must look for support, however willing, have not the necessary means, and while in many cases they would give all they possess they could not raise in two years as much as would be required to keep their army or armies one month.

I am not the man to seek the enriching of England by the oppression of any class of people. In olden times my country fought against England, under Bruce and Wallace, until she beat them at Bannockburn; but what a much better fight is she waging now by sending wise and educated men to represent her in the Houses of Parliament, and thereby she, in her rights, is placed on an equal footing with England, and so will it be with Ireland if she will quietly work and wait. Look already at what that polished and enlightened statesman, Gladstone, is doing in connection with the Irish Church question, and although he has many difficulties before him, we believe he will ultimately succeed, and once the Irish Church question is removed, one of the greatest grievances of the country is settled.

I admire the man who can say with Sir Walter Scott—

> "Breathes there the man with soul so dead,
> Who never to himself hath said,
> This is *my own*, my native land."

Or with King David of Old, when speaking of Jerusalem, exclaims, "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its cunning." And that is the very reason why Canadians should not be annoyed by any body of men and compelled to keep themselves in readiness for the protection of their homes and hearths. If Ireland is dear to Irishmen so is Canada dear to Canadians, and how any body of men can consistently claim for themselves what they will not grant to others is what I cannot understand. They seek to overrun a country which has never injured them, and whose population is composed of Irish, English, Scotch and Americans.

That such an assassination as that of the late Mr. T. D'Arcy should have taken place in the City of Ottawa after he had finished his day's work, and that now not only Canada but England and the world at large should have to mourn the loss of such a bright and shining light and such a staunch upholder of British independence, is such as to warn every right-minded man that the time has come when all loyal and patriotic subjects, whether by birth or circumstances, should take their stand. That such a life should be sacrificed for any purpose, and that we should be denied the pleasure of listening to such an orator, is more than I am willing to consent to. We have in England such a piece of gold as is called the Kho'inoor because of its real worth, but what is the comparison between that same "Kho'inoor" and such a gem as the mind of the late Mr. McGee. Were the most precious jewels of the East brought into comparison and placed in the balance they would be found wanting; and I am here to say the body of men who concocted or the body of men who accomplished his assassination are not worthy of life. I distinctly hold that not only the being who accomplished the assassination but the men who allied themselves to the accomplishment of the act deserve the extreme penalty of the law. I repeat, take

the most precious jewels of the world, weigh them, measure them, and to a fraction make up their worth, and I ask can they be compared to that mind or spirit which on the night of its assassination completed its work on earth and entered the portals of eternal life. I have listened to such men as the late and Rev. Chalmers, to Candlish, to the late logical and classical scholar, Cunningham, to Guthrie and to the Hon. W. E. Gladstone, the great leader of the liberal party in the British House of Commons, the polished House of all Parliaments, to the late and Rev. John Angel James, of Birmingham, the great independent minister, to that Prince of Preachers, Mr. Spurgeon, and although only a poor Scotchman, I am sorry I am denied the privilege of listening to the logical and oratorical reasoning of T. D. McGee. When again we consider that Prince Alfred, the young sailor Prince of England, visits the remote Colony of Australia, as representative of his *Queenly* mother than whom no monarch ever occupied with such credit to herself and the country at large her dignified and lofty position, another Fenian is found to attempt his assassination *Thank God*, in this case the hand of the assassin did not complete the work, and that under a good and All-ruling Providence, the same Prince Alfred has lived to return to the bosom of his worthy mother and the bosom of the country who desire to do him honor.

It is, however, folly to talk of the disaffected state of the educated and intelligent Irish. Can any proof be wanting when we tell you that from the pulpit and through the press, the Roman Catholic Clergy of Ireland have done everything in their power, both as Ministers of the Gospel of Peace and as British subjects, to allay and subdue the desires of those who would support the Fenian movement, and we believe they will prosecute and maintain the same position. Look at the late visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Ireland. We ask, could more loyalty be shewn? could the world expect a more loyal and enthusiastic welcome than that accorded to their Royal Highnesses. We believe this, that if the affection of the Irish people could be weighed in the balances with the affection of English-

men, it would be found that the English feeling itself does not far exceed that of the Irish. It is only when we cross the Atlantic we find such disaffection, and we are, therefore, convinced that the root of the matter springs from political motives, forced and fostered by Americans—in fact, we would say goaded on for and by American politicians.

We, however, do not think that Canada will again be visited by the Fenians; but in order to our being prepared let every man in the Dominion who does not sympathise with the deluded and fanatical adventurers, have his mind made up to give his person and his property in vindication of the right. What has any honest man to fear save the lives that must be sacrificed? Canada must be and shall be upheld by England until England has fired her last shot and sacrificed her last man; and depend upon it, long ere this takes place Fenianism and Fenians themselves will be remembered as part of the past and of so small an order that historians may glance but will not dwell upon it. It in its beginning was only the imagination of a brain pushed to the utmost extremity for the purpose of gaining the needful to support the body, and when James Stephens got what he wanted, viz.: as much as would keep him in idleness and pleasure, he, as the Americans would say, skedadled to a country where he can enjoy the pleasures of this life and laugh at the simplicity of those who entrusted him with their money for the liberation of Ireland. Liberation did we call it; if all the Fenians in the States had Ireland to-morrow we are bound to say neither law nor order would be known from the moment the Fenian flag waived from all their flag staffs. The greatness of a country does not depend on fire-brands and cut-throats; it is the quiet, sober, dilligent mind that make a country great and happy.—Where wise laws regulate and protect the subject, trade and commerce in all branches are increased. But what law, what order, what fellowship could be expected from men who, were they placed in the position as heads of a young nation, would not know how to begin with the birth of that nation? They are not the class of mind to carefully roll a young nation in swadling

bands, feed and nourish the same until she rises in giant strength and proportions amongst the nations of the earth. They are merely the dregs of society whose lust for power deprives them of all honesty. We, therefore, protest against the men and their measures, and are very sorry to think that for political capital these same men can receive support from many people in the United States who desire to live and profess to live christian lives in all soberness and honesty. The best explanation for this is, that as a family quarrel often begets more and more bitter animosity than any other quarrel, so our cousins in the States can never forget that they are of the same stock and as our fathers quarrelled so must we. The youth of America are taught to despise England, and from their infancy are learned to sing songs of the tyrant.—We may be thought too pointed in our remarks; we may be thought too anxious on our behalf for the British Crown and Provinces, and by some we may be put down as acting a one-sided part; but this we must say, we have ever admired the British rule and as such we are bound to uphold and protect Britain. When a nation such as Britain gives to the world such a proof of her determination to uphold and relieve and protect her subjects as in the late Abbyssinian war, I think it little to ask her subjects to protect each other.

The leading idea of Americans is, that Britain has passed the zenith of her power, and that America is to be the ruling power in the world; that in trade and commerce she will supersede any nation that has yet been born. But with British honesty let us go on unmindful of the young Republic, and by calmly working our way we will not only defy any attempt to take Canada, but will place our country in the position of being more and more strong, until at this time she is what she is—the most powerful nation in the world, she at the same time cannot be equalled or superseded by any other nation. We believe in her greatness for the very reason that under her free institutions and laws she must be upheld by her people. Let the time, however, come when Canada, Britain and the other possessions of Britain are disunited, we one and all will have to become the dependencies

of powerful and ambitious nations. What would Canada be were she now under the yoke of or in alliance with the United States, where every box of matches is charged one cent for the support of the Government? Where if you should like to wear a gold watch, you must pay a yearly tax for doing so, and where, if a poor man owns a cow, he must put her into pasture, for according to the law in the State of New York, he cannot allow her to go on the road under a penalty of $5. I think the time has come when men's minds should be made alive to the matter, and when as one man, Canadians should say to each other, let us be prepared for the worst. Think of it as you may, as the strength of a family is in the unity of its members, so the strength of a nation is in her entire unity. Canada is now in alliance with a country whose empire is the greatest this world ever saw, and whose proud position, is that in working out reform she gave her money for the liberation of the slaves. Let parents, therefore, encourage their children in their desire to defend the homes of their youth, and while mothers and sisters would willingly sacrifice their all rather than have the manly youth of Canada slain in defence of their country, yet let the encouragement be that rather than any band of Fenians are allowed to come into the Dominion they will give even to the last son and brother for that. The fact is the being prepared is the great guarantee against any raid or any Fenian army coming into Canada. Timely preparation will do more than anything else. I therefore advise that every young man who can by any possibility attend to his drill and give his attention to it should at once enroll himself. There is an old proverb, and I find in travelling it holds good, and that proverb is, "God helps the man that helps himself;" and if that same proverb be true there can be no harm in being prepared, but much good; do then apply yourselves dilligently to the work.—Let every encouragement be given both by individuals and the government to the youth of the Dominion, that they may be loyal and patriotic. In a country such as this is, great inducements can be held out to loyal subjects, and we would propose a scheme whereby the government and the people would be benefited. In our humble opinion, the government should at once set about

parcelling out the waste lands and holding out as an inducement to all young men that if they become volunteers, after, say ten years servitude, they will be allotted two hundred acres of land with a house and barns; also, in order to place them in an independent position, the government, when needful, guarantee the price of the stock necessary for the farm, and let the proprietor have so many years to pay it up, hereby giving young men of sober and industrious habits a position in society and an inducement to be faithful to the land of their birth or adoption. I am too much a stranger to go into this matter fully, but would suggest such a scheme, believing it to be for the benefit of the country at large and that ultimately it should be laid before the Dominion Government. Once you get the people to see the force and power of my suggestions and that they heartily endorse the same, you will not wait long until the whole is accomplished.—In a free country such as this the people rule, only where tyrants rule are the subjects slaves. Were you, therefore, setting yourselves to work by appointing committees in order that a thorough organization were got up throughout the country, and that your representatives in the Houses of Parliament were made alive to the matter, I have not the slightest doubt but ere many years had run their course, you would see not only the youth of Canada enrolled as volunteers, but you would see such a tide of immigration increased by the arriving of Dutch and Germans, &c., from the continent of Europe, which people as well as British emigrants would only be too proud to wrap themselves with the Union Jack of England. Instead, therefore, of the United States receiving the great bulk of foreign emigrants, Canada would have her due proportion, and ultimately, from the Hudson's Bay territory to the Niagara river and from Nova Scotia to British Columbia you would see a country teeming with the sinews of a nation's greatness, viz: the sons of toil, each and all happy in the bountiful supply which a kind and good Providence had provided for them, and ready at the government call to go out and protect the rights of British subjects. With such a population increasing daily in wealth, and therefore independence, it would be useless to speculate on the ultimate greatness of the Dominion.

Depend upon it, her greatness does not depend on any connection with the United States. It is by being independent of any power. But in the race for riches and greatness, being allied as the Dominion now is with the mother country, she will in the future rise to the stature of a man amongst the nations of the earth.—She will be admired of the world and a lesson to all republics that monarchy can produce greater nations than republicanism. I would strongly recommend, therefore, the getting up of committees in order to consider the propriety of what I have said about the parcelling out of the wild lands and thereby encourage the youth and also immigration from Europe, in order that the Dominion may be settled and strengthened, for two reasons; the first reason is it provides for a man and his family, and when a man feels himself provided for (as blood is thicker than water) he will not only say he will do what he can, but he will willingly sacrifice all he possesses for the defence of the land of his birth or adoption; and the second reason is, having a loyal and independent population nothing whatever can really harm their country. Let the people, therefore, be made alive to their real position, let them feel their security in their alliance with Britain, let them feel a pride in the country on account of its position, and say we will never be made the dupes of any foreign power or lawless marauders, whatever or whoever they may be. We, however, are not here to declare what the end of Britain and her possessions may be. We are not here to show by reason or argument the workings of the great Creator. His purposes with regard to Britain will stand as long and no longer than he pleases, and when in his unerring wisdom the cup of Britain's greatness is run she must decline so that another Gibbon may have to write of the past, and tell generations yet unborn that the little sea-girt isle of Britain occupied the proud position of being in her trade and commerce the most forward nation, and that in this the 19th century she stands unrivalled in her mercantile marine and navy, so much so, that other European nations look on with admiration while our American cousins look on with jealousy and chagrin. While, therefore, wise and good laws regulate the institutions of Canada, and the people retain the powerful alliance of England,

Canada must be prosperous and happy; but if lawless and
graded bands are permitted to pull down the standard fla
England from Canadian soil, the sons of Canada will in the f
regret their permitting such an act. Let me, therefore,
warning voice to all the young and loyal sons of Canada
enroll yourselves as volunteers, regularly attend to drill, b
be dilligent and attentive to the orders of your superi
should the enemy come in like a flood you will *hurl* him
confusion and dismay. We will finish by quoting the
the immortal Shakespere :—

> The cloud-capped towers,
> The gorgeous palaces,
> The solemn temples,
> The great globe itself,
> Yea, all that they inherit, shall dissolve,
> And, like this unsubstantial pageant fadi
> Leave not a wrack behind.